

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05

ACDA-05 /084 W

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R 041808Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4874

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 28733

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EEC, PFOR, NATO, MBFR, FR

SUBJECT: EC POLITICAL CONSULTATION: MBFR

REF: PARIS 26953

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS, BOTH MISTRAL (QUAI MBFR EXPERT) AND DUFOURCQ (QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR WESTERN EUROPE) HAVE DESCRIBED CURRENT STATE OF EC CONSULTATIONS ON MBFR. END SUMMARY.

2. MISTRAL HAD EARLIER TOLD US (REFTEL) THAT FRENCH DID
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NOT INTEND TO TAKE LEAD IN DISCUSSION OF MBFR AT OCTOBER

20 EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MEETING. HE LATER CONFIRMED TO US THAT FRENCH HAD REMAINED SILENT DURING THAT MEETING'S DISCUSSION OF MBFR. PRIOR TO QUAI STATE SECRETARY DESTREMAU'S DEPARTURE FOR OCTOBER 30 EC-NINE MINISTERIAL AT ROME, MISTRAL TOLD US THAT FRENCH DID NOT EXPECT MBFR TO COME UP DURING THAT MEETING. IF SUBJECT WAS RAISED, HOWEVER, FRENCH DID NOT INTEND TO TAKE ACTIVE ROLE IN DISCUSSION. DUFOURCQ CONFIRMED THAT SUBJECT DID NOT COME UP AT OCTOBER 30 MEETING.

3. BOTH MISTRAL AND DUFOURCQ HAVE EXPLAINED THIS APPARENT FRENCH RELUCTANCE TO PURSUE DISCUSSION OF MBFR WITHIN EC FRAMEWORK ALONG FOLLOWING LINES. FRENCH ARE QUITE PREPARED TO SEE EC-NINE ANALYZE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF MBFR ON QUESTIONS OF EUROPEAN SECURITY AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE. FRENCH ARE NOT PREPARED, HOWEVER, TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY EC-NINE EFFORT TO FORMULATE "EUROPEAN POLICY" ON MBFR WHICH WOULD LOCK FRANCE INTO COORDINATED EC STANCE ON MBFR. LOOKED AT ANOTHER WAY, FRENCH BELIEVE THAT THEIR EC-NINE ALLIES -- PARTICULARLY THE FRG -- ARE USING EC MBFR CONSULTATIONS AS MECHANISM TO BACK FRANCE INTO PARTICIPATION IN MBFR PROCESS, EVEN IF ONLY INDIRECTLY THROUGH EC-NINE. MISTRAL AND DUFOURCQ UNDERLINED THAT FRENCH SUSPECT THAT GERMANS MAY EVEN BE SEEKING TO GET FRENCH TO SIGN ONTO AN EC-NINE DOCUMENT CONCERNING MBFR WHICH WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF LIMITING FRANCE'S INDEPENDENT POLICY REGARDING MBFR. BOTH MISTRAL AND DUFOURCQ STRESSED THAT GOF IS TOTALLY OPPOSED TO SUCH A FRENCH "SIGN ON."

4. MOREOVER, OUR QUAI SOURCES BELIEVE THAT RECENT EC-NINE INTEREST IN MBFR DISCUSSIONS HAS BEEN FUELED BY PERCEPTION OF SEVERAL EC MEMBERS (PARTICULARLY FRG AND UK) THAT FRENCH CAN BE ROPED INTO GENERAL AND CONTINUING DISCUSSION OF EUROPEAN MILITARY/SECURITY MATTERS VIA EC CONSULTATIONS AND THAT THIS COULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF BRINGING FRANCE CLOSER TO SPIRIT OF NATO DEFENSE SYSTEM. (COMMENT: OUR LOCAL CONTACTS WITH SEVERAL EC-EIGHT SOURCES TEND TO CONFIRM THAT THIS IS, INDEED, ONE OF THE PURPOSES BEHIND RECENT SPATE OF EC-NINE MBFR DISCUSSIONS.)

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SIONS.) ACCORDING TO MISTRAL AND DUFOURCQ, FRENCH ARE NOT ABOUT TO BE CAUGHT IN THIS "TRAP." CONSEQUENTLY, FRENCH ARE NOT ACTIVELY PUSHING MBFR AS DISCUSSION ITEM FOR EC POLITICAL CONSULTATION. QUITE THE CONTRARY, THEY FEEL THAT THEY HAVE FULLY DESCRIBED TO THEIR EC PARTNERS FRENCH CONCERNS OVER MBFR ON MANY OCCASIONS, AND THAT THESE CONCERNS ARE BEGINNING TO TAKE ROOT ELSEWHERE, PARTICULARLY IN BONN. AS A RESULT THEY

ARE SATISFIED FOR THE MOMENT TO PLAY THE ROLE OF
"INTERESTED SPECTATOR" WHILE OTHER EC-NINE MEMBERS
DEBATE THE PROS AND CONS OF THE MBFR/EUROPEAN SECURITY
ISSUE.

5. MOST RECENTLY, DUFOURCQ TOLD US ON NOVEMBER 4 THAT
HE DOES NOT EXPECT THAT MBFR WILL PROVE TO BE A VERY
ACTIVE SUBJECT FOR EC CONSULTATION OVER COMING MONTHS.
RUSH

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